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STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1958

F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1958.

The mid-year population was 5,240 , as estimated by the Registrar General, an increase of 120 on that for 1957.

The total number of births was 79, i.e. 5 more than in the previous year, and it is very pleasing to record no infantile deaths and no maternal deaths during the year under review.

There were 53 deaths (43 in 1957) giving a death rate of 11.73 which is practically identical with the National Rate at 11.70. Principal causes of death, viz. 16 heart diseases, 12 from cancer, 10 from vascular lesions of the nervous system, 4 from bronchitis and one from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded.

Twenty-three cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 92 in 1957. Nine cases of scarlet fever were notified, - three in the month of May, two in same family at Holwick and one at Romaldkirk, two were notified in June, - at Mickleton, one, a pre-school age child at Boldron in November and three at Cotherstone in December, one of the latter was of pre-school age. Five school children attended Mickleton and two attended Cotherstone School of the school children who contracted the disease. There were eight cases of Sonne Dysentery in 1958, five of these were in one family at Greta Bridge, - all of pre-school age - in February. Two cases in one family occurred in the month of April and the eighth case, the only school child with dysentery, also in April.

Sonne Dysentery is very contagious and spreads rapidly in a household, particularly when hygienic measures are omitted - hand washing before handling food and especially after visiting a toilet is absolutely essential to prevent spread - also thorough disinfection of toilet seats, chains, taps, door handles etc. is indicated.

There was one case of whooping cough - a pre-school age child in June; and one case of puerperal pyrexia in April.

One case of respiratory tuberculosis was reported during the year, the patient being a soldier at Deerbolt Camp.

It is pleasing to record no cases of poliomyelitis occurring in the District and artificial immunisation against this disease was carried out as far as possible, having regard to the amount of vaccine available and time to visit the various schools in the area.

T. W. GAVIN.

Medical Officer of Health.

21st August, 1959.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health: F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	....	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate		5,240
Number of inhabited houses	....	1,421
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1958	....	£72,515
Sum represented by penny rate	....	£297.0.0.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April,1958	....	8/3.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS The number of live births registered during the year was 79, as against 74 in 1957. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is higher than for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons Live Births per 1,000 population
Still Births per 1,000 total live and stillbirths as adjusted by Comparability Factor.

		Live Births	Stillbirths
Startforth Rural District	1958	19.00	12.50
Startforth Rural District	1957	18.21	26.31
England and Wales	1958	16.40	21.6

Analysis of Births

	Live Births				Stillbirths			
	1958		1957		1958		1957	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	33	44	25	42	1	-	2	-
Illegitimate....	-	2	2	5	-	-	-	-
Totals	33	46	27	47	1	-	2	-

DEATHS Maternal Mortality No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year as in 1957.

Infantile Mortality No child under one year died in the District during 1958, as against one in 1957.

Infantile Mortality Comparisons.	Per 1,000 live births
Startforth Rural District 1958	00.00
Startforth Rural District 1957	13.51
England and Wales 1958	22.50

Deaths from All Causes During 1958 there were 53 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 43 in 1957. The death rate with that for the rest of England and Wales being almost identical.

Death Rate Comparisons	Death Rate per 1,000 population
Startforth Rural District 1958	11.73
Startforth Rural District 1957	9.74
England and Wales 1958	11.70

Causes of all Deaths and Sexes	1957 M	1957 F	1958 M	1958 F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-	-
" Other	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	-	4
" " Lung, bronchus	1	1	2	-
" " Breast	-	-	-	1
" " Uterus	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	5	2	1	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	3	4	6
Coronary Diseases, Angina	9	3	4	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1	-
Other Heart Diseases	-	4	4	2
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	1	-	1
Influenza	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-
Bronchitis	1	-	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	2	-	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1	1
All Other Accidents	1	-	2	-
Suicide	-	1	-	-
Totals	25	18	23	30

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and Comparisons with the previous year

No. of Deaths 1957	No. of Deaths 1958	Causes of Death	Rate per 1,000 pop. 1957	Rate per 1,000 pop. 1958
10	12	Cancer	1.96	2.29
1	4	Respiratory (non-Tuberculosis)	.20	.76
17	16	Heart Diseases	3.32	3.05
-	-	Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	-	-
-	1	Tuberculosis - Non-Pulmonary	-	.19
4	1	Other Circulatory Diseases	.78	.19
4	10	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	.78	1.91
36	44		7.03	8.39

INFECTIOUS DISEASES There were 23 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1958, as against 92 in 1957.

Analysis and Comparisons with previous year		1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	....	-	9
Acute Pneumonia	....	-	3
Influenza	....	-	1
Chicken Pox	....	2	-
Sonne Dysentery	....	5	8
Puer Pyrxia	....	-	1
Whooping Cough	....	2	1
Measles	....	83	-
	Totals	92	23

TUBERCULOSIS Three new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. No deaths from this disease were registered in the District in 1958; there were also no deaths from this cause in 1957.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS The following vaccinations and immunisations were carried out in 1958 and compared with those done in the previous year.

	1957		1958	
	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5	0 - 5 yrs.	Over 5
Successful Vaccinations	28	14	35	16
Completed Course of Immunisation	41	6	27	11

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. At the end of December, 1958 640 children in the District had received two injections and 28 had received three injections against poliomyelitis.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT, 1946

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
Section 24. Health Visiting.
Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by the District Medical Officer and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

The following number of visits paid to the patients in the District by the Nurse/Midwife during 1958 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1957:-

Category	1957	1958
Domiciliary Midwifery	1394	1102
Home Nursing	1591	1383
Health Visiting	1724	1256

Section 27. Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and five Driver/attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car Service covers the Richmond Borough, and Rural Districts of Startforth, Richmond, Croft and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care. The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council, and during 1958 6 cases received help, as compared with 8 in 1957, the analysis and comparison with 1957 being:-

Category	1957		1958	
	Cases	Hours	Cases	Hours
Domiciliary Confinement	-	-	2	562
Chronic Sick	4	2177	4	2015
Sick Housewife	4	233	-	-
Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Totals	8	2410	6	2577

Section 51. Mental Health No Committee in the area and no cases arose in 1958, - as in the previous four years.

Dental Services This service is provided by arrangement, with the North Riding County Council.

National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47. No cases in 1958.

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The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector and I now thank him for his kind co-operation at all times and for the completion of this Report.

Nuisance Inspection

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only	103
Total Number of Nuisances found	28
Number of Statutory Notices served	-
Number of Informal Notices served	26

Public Cleansing

During the year a Scavenging Service operated throughout the area and only a small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly, although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where a semi-controlled system is operated and Ministry of Health Recommendations followed so far as is possible. Two Karrier refuse vehicles and five men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £2,940.

Infectious Diseases

Eight cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred during the year. Five of these were in one family at Greta Bridge and the other three were in the village of Startforth. Advice was given to limit the spread of the disease.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948	No. of Register.	No. of Inspections
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are enforced by Local Authority	12	21
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	8	13
Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	13	22

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Eighteen shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Eight of these are licenced to store ice-cream for sale.

Five privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 274 visits of inspection were made during the year. The following table shows the details of the carcasses inspection during the year.

The meat slaughtered was of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned a very small percentage of the whole.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	437	-	238	1831	176	-
Number inspected	437	-	238	1831	176	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	28	-	-	21	6	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	6.407	-	-	1.2	3.4	-
Tuberculosis only Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Moveable Dwellings

There is one licenced caravan site in the area. During the year this site, which was licenced for a maximum of 70 moveable dwellings, was provided with satisfactory water supply and sanitary accommodation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council owns modern treatment works at Cotherstone and Mickleton, both of which villages are provided with satisfactory systems of sewers. The sewage disposal works at Barningham, Bowes, Romaldkirk and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and the villages of Boldron, Holwick, Hutton Magna, Lartington and Ovington have no disposal works.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal continued

A scheme for the enlarging of the sewage works at Romaldkirk has been approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and negotiations are proceeding with a view to the sewage from Startforth Village being treated in the disposal works attached to the Military Establishment at Deerbolt Park instead of at the disposal works of the Barnard Castle Urban District Council. It is hoped that work on these two schemes may commence towards the end of 1959. The Council has reviewed the problem existing in the other villages and have decided upon the following order of priority:-

Year	Villages
1960	Barningham and Bowes
1961	Ovington and Boldron
1962	Lartington and Hutton Magna.

Preparatory investigations are being made in connection with the schemes for Barningham and Bowes to prevent any undue time-lag between the completion of one scheme and the commencement of the next.

Water Supply

The parishes of Mickleton, Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Lartington, Barforth and Ovington are supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board and the parish of Startforth by the Urban District Council of Barnard Castle. The Council operates undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, Holwick and Hutton Magna. It is probable that, in the near future, discussions will take place in connection with the regrouping of water undertakings with a view to the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board becoming the water authority for the whole of the district and it is felt that this will be the most satisfactory method for dealing with the water supply problems that are arising. Two schemes of water supply have been under consideration for the supply of water by the Council in the parishes of Hunderthwaite and in the Bowes/Boldron area. During the year the Air Ministry Borehole at Bowes was acquired by the Council and temporary works carried out to ensure an improved supply for the village of Bowes until such time as the Bowes/Boldron schemes is installed. Discussions have also taken place for the supply of water in the parishes of Egglestone Abbey, Rokeby and Thorpe by the Tees Valley Water Board from their recently installed trunk main. It is anticipated that this trunk main will also be able to afford a supply of water to the village of Hutton Magna and to operate in the parish of Wycliffe.

During the year sixty-eight samples of water were submitted for bacteriological examination; of these thirty-seven were satisfactory and thirty-one unsatisfactory. The rather high proportion of unsatisfactory reports is attributed to the number of small private water supplies examined, many of which proved to be unsatisfactory. Where an unsatisfactory report was received for a sample from a public supply an immediate investigation into the cause was made and remedial measures taken.

Housing

The Council owns eighty-six Council houses, of which six were erected in the inter-war years. They also own four bungalows which were converted from the former Infectious Diseases Isolation Hospital with assistance under the Housing Act, 1949.

Applications for private individuals for improvement grants are being received and are considered on their merits. During the year nine grants were made.

Housing-continued

The Council decided in 1958 that it should embark upon a programme for the provision of bungalows for the elderly. Some delay was occasioned until the County Council made known its intentions under Section 56 of the Local Government Act, 1958. It is intended, in the first instance, to erect a trial scheme of six bungalows and invite applications from the residents of the District who are in need of such accommodation before the Council decides upon the extent of its programme. It may well be that the erection of these bungalows will enable the Council to take action in respect of some of the houses still listed as unfit for habitation as many of these houses, are, in fact, occupied by elderly people.

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